

## Public Parade

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seldom used—for some years.

What is the magnitude of accounts at Chowan Hospital in the 180-day-past-due category? Well, Johnny Bryan, administrator, reported this week that these accounts had increased by 185, or \$91,858, between October 1 and mid-April. In April, there was \$208,000 which would have been collectable under the garnishee measure which didn't come to pass.

If the hospital can't collect its accounts, it cannot maintain the same level of service at existing rates. This simply means that those who pay will have to eventually pay more. This comes at a bad time for Chowan Hospital since a \$2.5-million expansion and renovation program is nearing completion. Borrowing money to purchase much needed equipment, or increasing room rates and fees could be avoided if there was a stronger method at the administration's disposal to collect the \$208,000, and keep accounts current.

While health care costs are on the increase, being hospitalized along the Public Parade is still a bargain. The N.C. Hospital Association recently released figures which showed that Tar Heel hospitals rank 49th in the nation in the average cost of a semi-private room. While the nation's average cost per day is \$183.87, North Carolina's semi-private room rate average is \$125.51. The current rate at Chowan Hospital is \$132 per day.

The local rate is slightly higher than the state average, but it is much lower than in Tidewater, Va., where the average is \$146. There are a lot of patients being sent from along the Public Parade to Tidewater area hospitals unnecessarily. Chowan Hospital has a very fine, well trained staff capable of doing a number of procedures which people are now going outside the area to have done—and at a greater cost.

Hospital costs, like many commodities, can be purchased for less if a certain volume is maintained. Therefore, people along the Public Parade need to shop at home for health care before taking their problems, and their money, elsewhere. But more importantly, when the service is rendered people need to be good citizens by paying as promptly as circumstances allow.

Health care costs along the Public Parade will remain a bargain only as long as there is adequate utilization of the facilities and manpower available. And, of course, only as long as those who receive the service pay their bills.

### VA: Big Business

An estimated 2.3-million veterans, many along the Public Parade, received Veterans Administration compensation checks in 1982 bringing the total paid out in the program during that fiscal year to over \$9-billion.

Each received a monthly check ranging from as low as \$62 per month, for those with ten per cent disability, to as high as \$3,461 for those with certain severe disabilities. For 100 per cent disability not involving major amputations or loss of use of limbs, the maximum amount of compensation is \$1,213 per month.

Veterans whose service-connected disabilities are rated at 30 per cent or more are entitled to additional allowances for dependents. The additional amount is determined according to the number of dependents and the degree of disability.

The \$9-billion of compensating veterans for service-connected disabilities was more than one third



LOCAL AUTHOR HOLDS AUTOGRAPH PARTY—Marguerite McCall autographs a copy of her novel, *And the Roof Needs Patching*, for Mrs. Lorraine Simpson on June 23, at the Barker House.

## Council Discusses New Sight And Cable Rate Increases

The Edenton Town Council had three major items on its agenda for its June 28 meeting.

The first item on Council's agenda was a report from Buck Kennedy, of the L.E. Wooten Company, on the progress of Edenton's 201 Facilities Project, or as it is more commonly known, land application sewage treatment facility. Mr. Kennedy reported that the facility has been delayed at least six months because of the Federal Aviation Administrations refusal to permit the use of the Town's property near the Edenton Airport. He continued his report by stating that a new sight had been chosen which appears to be within the F.A.A. guidelines.

The sight presently being looked at, is owned by Union Camp, and can accept the treated sewage water at a rate of 1/2 inch of water per week over the entire 500 acres. Mr. Kennedy stated that a meeting

will be held on July 7 with Union Camp to discuss the conditions for sale.

Albemarle Cable Television held the second major item on the agenda. Vince Ridikas, the owner of Albemarle Cable Television, was present to discuss the cable system and the cable rates. He stated that he had come into the area 15 years ago seeking a franchise from the various communities and received the franchise for Edenton, Chowan County, Hertford and Perquimans County. After explaining the background of his company a little, Mr. Ridikas, requested of council a \$1 rate increase to go into effect in September.

The \$1 rate increase is for the basic service which is at present \$6.99. The reason for the requested rate increase was attributed to the increased cost of operating the television facility. Another reason, cited by Mr. Ridikas, was the loss \$300,000 in 1982 because the number of subscribers to the cable system were less than the projected number of subscribers.

In addition to the increase in the basic subscriber rate, Mr. Ridikas stated that Albemarle Cable Station would also be increasing fees which Council has no jurisdiction over.

Mayor Harrell questioned Mr. Ridikas on the increasing of fees, whether or not Council approved these increases.

The Mayor quoted the existing contract with Albemarle Cable where it said, all adjustments of existing rates would have to be ap-

## Outstanding Man

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by the U.S. Justice Department at its Petersburg Correctional Facility as a drug counselor. He rose through the Justice Department quickly and was soon the executive assistant to the director of the Prison System. Recently, he was offered an Assistant Warden position in Texas which he turned down and was transferred to the Petersburg Facility as executive assistant to the warden. He presently resides in Colonial Heights with his wife, Jo Anna, and their daughter Meghan.

The Outstanding Young Men of America award is endorsed by the United States Jaycees and is given to young men who demonstrate excellence in professional endeavors and civic activities. The letter in describing the elite group of young men who receive this award states, "These men work diligently to make their cities, as well as their country, a better place in which to live, and deserve recognition for their outstanding achievements."

In closing his letter to the Beelers Doug Blankenship, chairman of the award's Board of Advisors, wrote, "Again, in behalf of the Board of Advisors, I want to congratulate you and your son. He has proven through the virtues of hard work, determination and the willingness to give of himself that he is truly an outstanding young man."

of the agency's \$25 billion budget. When combined with pension — payments made to veterans with disabilities not traceable to military service — the total is \$13.9 billion or more than half of VA's annual budget.

To be eligible for pension, a veteran must be totally and permanently disabled from a non-service-connected cause and his family income may not exceed an amount specified by law — currently \$6,980 per year for a veteran with a spouse. No such income restrictions apply to compensation payments.

Some 800,000 veterans and 1-million survivors now receive pension.

## Sewage Rate Study Is Proposed

The Utility Committee of the Town of Edenton in action before the June 28th Council Meeting, agreed that a rate study needs to be done on the sewage rates.

The Town Administrator, Sam Noble brought up the need for the rate study during the Utility Committee's discussions with Buck Kennedy, from the L.E. Wooten Company.

Councilman Hampton suggested that the Committee should go into executive session and discuss the rate study, but the Town Administrator said that he did not feel that it was necessary.

Mr. Kennedy stated that the land application sewage system would have a higher maintenance cost and that sewage rates must go up to cover the costs. This due particularly to the law which requires that a utility support itself.

Mr. Kennedy suggested that to offset the cost of land application to the Town, the Town should develop a rate schedule to slowly adjust the sewage cost. He felt that the slow adjustment to the actual fee would ease the shock of a sudden jump in sewage rates.

The Utility Committee was concerned with the move.



HERITAGE CELEBRATES FIRST ANNIVERSARY—Heritage Realty, located at 106 E. King St., is celebrating its first anniversary in their Edenton office. Owned and managed by Gary Wooten of Edenton, the agency has been active this year, selling over 70 properties with sales totaling \$1.9 million. Pictured is the sales staff - from left to right: Russell Bootwright, Shelia Bootwright, Nancy Winslow, Lynn Wooten and Gary Wooten.

## Optimist Club Prepares For The July 4th Celebration In Edenton

After the smoke has cleared on what is hoped to be the "Best Ever" Fireworks Display in Edenton, what will you remember the most? You may think of that one most beautiful burst of color, or, maybe the excitement of the loud noises. To help give a greater appreciation of the hard work and professionalism involved in planning, setting up and finally shooting a show such as the one set to entertain you this year, you may want to know what goes on behind the scenes.

Early in April, a band of hearty optimist members, (usually 6-8), journey to Southern International Fireworks Inc., located in Rock Hill, South Carolina. In Rock Hill, this group attends a safety seminar and gains "Hands on Experience" and personal instructions as to how to safely and effectively shoot, "Class B" fireworks. While in Rock Hill, this group of fireworks professionals negotiates the best fireworks display available with their pre-determined amount of money.

Upon survival of their journey the group begins to make plans to shoot the year's display. Many things are taken into consideration.

When the big day arrives, some seventeen mortars (similar to military hardware), are set up with the angle dictated by wind speed and direction. Safety is never compromised. As darkness falls, some twelve men will put on all-cotton shirts, ear muffs and fire retardant gloves, where necessary.

Promptly at 9:30, July 4, 1983, the fuses will be lit on this years fireworks display. For a few brief moments, all heads will be lifted. Patriotism will well up in us, much as the tears of pride some will shed, as the large handmade flag rises at the end of the show, encompassed by the singing of our national anthem.

The Optimist Club has not only worked hard on the "fireworks display" but also on the many events planned to provide the public with an enjoyable and safe "Fabulous Fourth of July" celebration. The events start at 11 A.M. with the "Anything That Floats But A Boat" display at the field in front of Holmes High. The rest of the schedule reads as follows:

12:00-10:00 P.M. — Concessions: Fried Chicken, Corn on the Cob, Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Ice Cream, Watermelon, Cold Drinks — (Colonial Park).

1:30 P.M. — Parade of Vehicles for Race — (Holmes High to Water Street).

2:00 P.M. — Anything That Floats (But A Boat) Race — (Water Street - at Cannons).

2:30 P.M.-9:30 P.M. — Entertainment: Washington Community Band, Albemarle Pops Orchestra, Various Local Groups — (Colonial Park).

3:30 P.M. — N.C. Wildlife Water Safety Team Demonstration — (Edenton Bay).

3:30-7:00 P.M. — Games: Penny Hunt, Sack Races, Dunking Machine, Watermelon Eating, Tobacco Spitting, Horseshoe Pitching, Balloon Toss, Bubble Gum Contest — (Colonial Park).

9:30-10:00 P.M. — "Fabulous Fourth of July" Fireworks Display — (Edenton Bay).

The Optimist Club has high hopes that everyone will take advantage of the opportunity to share a memory on July 4th. If you remember nothing else, remember that a lot of hard work and worry is required to plan, promote and deliver a public service of this nature.

## Evangelistic Services

Three nights of Evangelistic Services will be in progress at the Hawkins Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church, Virginia Fork Road, Edenton, from June 29th through July 1st. Different speaker will render service each night. (1) Wednesday Night— The Rev. (Dr.) T.M. Jones and the Gale Street Baptist Church, (2) Thursday Night— The Rev. W.L. Leigh and the Bay Branch and Winslow Grove A.M.E. Zion Churches, (3) Friday Night— The Rev. (Dr.) J.L. Fenner and the Providence Missionary Baptist Church. Services will begin nightly at 7:30 P.M. The public is invited to attend.

## Extension Club Held Meeting

Center Hill Extension Homemakers Club met at the regular time at the Center Hill Community Building. Mrs. J.S. Turner was hostess. The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Gladys White, V. President who led the group in devotion and prayer. Mrs. White, also presented the lesson of the day on "Sugar—Not such sweet talk." We were told the average American will eat two pounds of sugar each week and given a list of suggestions for cutting down on the sugar intake. Several food items were passed around for each person to read the label for sugar content.

Plans for July meeting were made. Each person was urged to complete reports and hand in VEEP Hrs. to the president.

Mrs. Turner served delicious refreshments to those present during the social hour, and the meeting dismissed by the club collect repeated together.

## Peanut Producers Receive Checks

Checks totaling \$29,244,630.78 were mailed to peanut producers who placed 1982 crop segregation I Virginia type additional peanuts under warehouse storage loans through Peanut Growers Cooperative Marketing Association in Franklin, Virginia. These profits were realized from sales of peanuts placed under the loan and are being paid in addition to the Federal Price Support loan amounts paid at time of delivery to participating producers.

The additional segregation I pool was reduced by \$1.26-million which was used to help offset Commodity Credit Corporation's loss in the Virginia quota pool. The remaining loss in the quota pool was reduced to just over \$100-thousand. Other Commodity Credit Corporation losses occurred in the segregation

II and III and disaster II and III pools. Total program cost for these losses amounted to approximately \$575-thousand in the Virginia - Carolina area.

The dividend in the Virginia type segregation I additional pool equals \$348.41 plus \$15.13 earned interest per average ton placed under loan at a value of \$207.10 per ton. The dividends are based on the value of peanuts placed under loan and not the weight which is often misunderstood.

The 30th Annual membership meeting of the association will be held at the Southeast 4-H Center near Wakefield, Va., September 1, at 6 P.M. The board of directors and staff of PGCMA cordially invite its membership and other persons with an interest in the peanut industry to attend.

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